

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide antecedent basis for language now used in the claims.

New independent claims 23 and 25 have replaced original claims 1 and 12 to overcome the objections raised against claims 1 and 12. The dependent claims which were objected to have also been amended.

Each of claims 23 and 25 recites a distributor and a conveying member, both of which being mounted for rotation about a common rotation axis by a motor. While such rotation occurred, wire is fed through a tubular portion of the conveying member and a corridor of the distributor.

Claims 1 and 12 (now canceled) were rejected over Debroche et al. '259 and '289. In Debroche et al. '259, a conveying member 24 is driven about a rotation axis by a motor, but the distributor 27, 28 is not. That is, the portion 28 of the distributor does not rotate, and any rotation of the portion 27 of the distributor is not about the rotation axis of the conveying member 24, in contrast to claims 23 and 25.

It is noted that the conveying member 24 and the distributor 27, 28 of Debroche '259 are rotatable together about an axis 31 to adjust the angle of wire deposition, but such rotation is not motor-driven and does not occur as wire is being fed, contrary to claims 23 and 25.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 23 and 25 respectively define a method and a device which are markedly different from Debroche '259.

Regarding the rejection based on Debroche et al. '289, claim 23 recites that the common rotation axis is outside of the support. In contrast, the common axis 39

in Debroche '289 is disposed within (not outside of) the support 2. In fact, that axis almost coincides with the axis of the support.

Accordingly, it is apparent that the method of claim 23 is markedly different from that of Debroche '289.

Claim 25 also recites that the wire outlet of the distributor is arranged to discharge wire in a direction generally away from the axis (see Fig. 3b for example). In contrast, the distributor of Debroche '289 discharges wire directly toward the axis. Claim 25 thus defines a device which is markedly different from that of Debroche '289.

Therefore, it is submitted that claims 23 and 25, and all claims dependent therefrom, distinguish patentably from Debroche '259 and '289. The dependent claims recite further advantageous features of the invention. For example, each of new claims 24 and 26 recites that the rotation axis is disposed "above" the elastomeric covering, which is not disclosed in Debroche '289.

It is thus submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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